

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 remain in the application, and claims 1-7 have been amended hereby. The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended with particular attention to the points raised in the Office Action.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,040,829 (Croy et al.).

Applicants have carefully considered the comments of the Office Action and the cited reference, and respectfully submit that claims 1-8 are patentably distinct over the cited reference for at least the following reasons.

The present invention relates to an information processing apparatus, method, system, and recording medium wherein a controlled apparatus connected to a network transmits control screen data of the controlled apparatus to a controlling apparatus for display. Contents of an operation executed by a user referencing a display screen of the controlling apparatus notify the controlled apparatus, allowing the controlling apparatus to execute control without transmitting commands for directly controlling the controlled apparatus.

Croy et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to a hand-held device and system for monitoring and controlling electronic devices. The control device includes a base unit including a microcontroller and an interface coupled to the microcontroller for receiving external information and a personal navigator coupled to the base unit via a data link.

The personal navigator further includes a display component for displaying a dual partition selection list including a portion of the external information received from the interface. The dual partition selection list further includes a first selection list and a second selection list, a portion of the first selection list and a portion of the second selection list being concurrently displayable on the display component.

The Office Action states that Croy et al. discloses an information processing apparatus including first and second display control means, receiving means, output means, and a recording medium (see Office Action, p. 2, ln. 21 to p. 3, ln. 14). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Office Action cites col. 3, lns. 39-50 and Fig. 1 of Croy et al. as allegedly disclosing output means in the form of a microcontroller for outputting signals as inputs to an information processing apparatus (see Office Action, p. 3, lns. 10-12).

As understood by Applicants, the cited section of Croy et al. discloses that a vertical blanking interval (VBI) decoder may be used to decode data from an overscan portion or a separate carrier on the channel (see Croy et al., col. 3, lns. 39-50). A microcontroller is used to decode and descramble the information and to look for service and control information in the VBI information (see id.). The VBI encoded data are one source of external information provided to the base station (see id.).

It is respectfully submitted, however, that the

microcontroller of Croy et al. does not output first and second command signals to a selected information processing apparatus.

In the present invention, the output means outputs first command signals requesting second control screen data to a selected information processing apparatus when the selected information processing apparatus is selected via the first control screen, and outputs second command signals corresponding to input to the selected information processing apparatus when predetermined instructions are input by a user via the second control screen, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that neither the cited section nor the remainder of Croy et al. disclose or suggest an information processing apparatus that is connected to a network with other information processing apparatuses, and that controls itself and the other information processing apparatuses via the network, the apparatus comprising first display control means for controlling a display of a first control screen for selecting the other information processing apparatuses, second display control means for controlling a display of a second control screen based upon second control screen data, output means for outputting first command signals requesting the second control screen data when the selected information processing apparatus is selected via said first control screen and for outputting second command signals corresponding to input to the selected information processing apparatus when predetermined instructions are input by a user

via the second control screen, receiving means for receiving from the selected information processing apparatus the second control screen data for controlling the selected information processing apparatus using a data transmission method via the network, wherein the second control screen data include graphical user interface data of the selected information processing apparatus, the second control screen data are transmitted in response to the first command signals, the second control screen is constructed based upon the second control screen data received by the receiving means, and the outputted second command signals notify the selected information processing apparatus of an operation performed by the user via the second control screen, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Croy et al. Independent claims 2-7, and the claims depending therefrom, are believed to be patentable over the cited reference for at least similar reasons.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited, and it is respectfully submitted that this amendment raises no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, because the functional aspects of the invention have merely been clarified in the amended claims.

Should the Examiner disagree, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specify where in the cited

document there is a basis for such disagreement.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay H. Maioli
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JHM/AVF